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August, 4, 2014

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Department of Human Services Employee Receives “Patriot Award” for Her Support of the Guard and Reserve

Bismarck, N.D. – Substance Abuse Lead for the North Dakota Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Pamela Sagness, has been awarded the “Patriot Award” for her support of the Guard and Reserve. The award “reflects the efforts made to support Citizen Warriors through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families and granting leaves of absence if needed,” according to the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

“I feel honored to be recognized in this way.” Pamela Sagness said. “Supporting our military service members, veterans, families and survivors is important. It is great to work for an agency that is supportive of its employees.”

Sagness was nominated by her employee, Captain Patrick Joyce. Joyce is the Commander of the 132nd Quartermaster Company and also works full time as a Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist for the Department of Human Services.

“Without hesitation Pam is supportive of my role as a Commanding Officer and makes sure I am able to attend training and events to advance my Guard career,” Captain Patrick Joyce said. “Additionally in our department, Pam supports our involvement with ND Cares, a coalition dedicated to creating an accessible seamless system of support for veterans, service members, families and survivors in North Dakota.”

ESGR is supported by a network of more than 4,900 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states. Their mission is to “gain and maintain employer support for members of the National Guard and Reserve by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflict through mediation.”

Six other employers also received the “Patriot Award” for their support of the Guard and Reserve.